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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Production Difficulties at Agfa-Wolfen

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1. Agfa-Wolfen continues to produce film, although the firm has been struggling with great difficulties since the spring of 1953, due to the flight to the West of its leading film specialists. The Soviet Union will continue to require large quantities of film material after 1 Jar 54, but deliveries of 36 mm in black and white and Agfa color will be decreased and more special film delivered, especially the infrared kind.
2. Sound tape is also delivered to the Soviet Union and Poland. The cost price of a 1,000 meter sound tape is around 18 marks. Poland and the USSR pay only 8.4 rubles.
3. Photopaper was to be supplied to Poland, but it was refused by the buyer on account of its poor quality. Chemicals for the manufacture and treatment of photographic materials are delivered to practically all East bloc countries.
4. In all probability a plant on the model of Agfa Wolfen is being established in the Soviet Union. Meticulous surveys have been made at Wolfen for a year past. Soviet engineers during this time have made studies of the plant, and Soviet learners are now found in the various departments. They are called back to the Soviet Union upon completion of a three-year course of instruction.

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